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CBA

DATE: 10 September 1952

25X1 TO : [REDACTED]
FROM : [REDACTED] ONE
SUBJECT: Evaluation of SEA Summer Program

25X1 From the point of view of one of my limited knowledge of the Far East (1 year in the area, 1 year in Far East section, ONE), the program was valuable indeed. It provided a basis for increasing background knowledge and already puts the daily traffic into some perspective (not that everything is suddenly 3-dimensional). However, I think the course was of a caliber to appeal at least in some aspects to those of much wider experience.

25X1 [REDACTED] scholarly lectures, representing the broadest familiarity with cultural aspects of the area, were particularly outstanding from this point of view.

25X1 [REDACTED] special field of knowledge is Indonesia and one of the best lectures of the course was one in which he compared the colonial record in Indonesia and the Philippines. His other lectures were summary in nature. [REDACTED] geography lectures were well-planned and uniformly interesting particularly for those of us whose "geography" left off in 5th grade. A negative reaction to [REDACTED] lectures reflects for one thing a lack of training in economics. With the exception of isolated facts, I was able to absorb nothing from what struck me as equivocal, tentative, unrehearsed comment.

The instructors usually assigned themselves an ambitious amount of material to cover within a 2-hour period, leaving little room for discussion. The concentration of the course, however, probably permitted some to participate who otherwise would have been discouraged, from the point of view of office work load, by a longer range project. Although the lectures were best heard in continuity, particularly [REDACTED] one could attend single lectures profitably because each one was devoted more or less to a single topic. If at all possible another summer, a classroom with windows should be made available.

Limited outside reading is the minimum that can be expected of one privileged to attend such a series of lectures. An opportunity to read under the impetus, in context, of the personal recommendation of an instructor should be capitalized on.

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